

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2, 5, 12, 13, 15, 17-21, 23, 26-28 have been amended. Thus, claims 2, 3, and 5-45 are presently pending with claims 5, 13 and 29 being independent.

In the Office Action dated December 31, 2003, claims 29-45 are allowed. Furthermore claims 5-11, 13 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As suggested in the Action, claims 5 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form and should therefore be in condition for allowance. Original claims 6-11 depend from claim 5, and original claim 14 depends from claim 13. In addition, the necessary amendments have been made so that claims 2, 3, 12, and 15-28 depend directly or indirectly from claim 5. Accordingly, dependent claims 2, 3, 6-12, and 14-28 should also be in allowable.

Therefore, the present application should now be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 445-3460.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AGC', is written over a horizontal line.

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(Docket No. 33880)